

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LENDING 01809 221332Z
ACTION EUR-12

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O 221322Z JUN 78
FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
TO USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4453
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS LENINGRAD 01809

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: SOVINFILM JOINT PRODUCTION

REF: LENINGRAD 1763 (NOTAL)

1. IN CONVERSATION JUNE 22 WITH V. V. BLINOV, DIRECTOR OF LENFILM, POST LEARNED THAT PROPOSED JOINT ROCK CONCERT/ FILM HAS BEEN INDEFINITELY POSTPONED. BLINOV HAD JUST RETURNED TO HIS DESK AFTER SEVERAL DAYS OF CONVERSATIONS WITH DEGRUNWALD IN LONDON, FOLLOWED BY A FINAL ROUND TOGETHER JUNE 21 IN MOSCOW. BLINOV WAS QUOTE OFFENDED UNQUOTE BY WHAT HE CHARACTERIZED AS PREMATURE PRESS PUBLICITY WHICH, HE AVERRED, TREATED AS FACTS KEY POINTS HE CONSIDERED STILL UNDECIDED, MOST NOTEWORTHY: JULY FOUR TIMING AND LOCATION ON PALACE SQUARE. HE SAID HE TOLD DEGRUNWALD NEITHER SIDE COULD BE READY FOR A JULY FOUR CONCERT AND THAT DEGRUNWALD SHOULD KNOW IT. WORK ON THE SCRIPT, HE ADDED, IS STILL IN TRAIN. BLINOV SAID THAT A QUOTE PRELIMINARY AGREEMENT UNQUOTE FORESAW FILMING BETWEEN JULY TWO AND SEVEN, BUT THAT HE HEARD ABOUT JULY FOUR ONLY WHEN SHOWN PRESS REPORTS EMANATING FROM SAN FRANCISCO. AS OF NOW, HE SAID, ALL BETS ARE OFF. HE REFUSED TO SPECULATE AS TO WHEN FILMING WOULD TAKE PLACE IF, INDEED, IT EVER DOES.

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2. COMMENT: THIS TURN OF EVENTS ALL THE MORE INTRIGUIN IN LIGHT OF JUNE 16 LENINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA REPORTING (SEE REFTTEL) OF JUNE 15 PRESS CONFERENCE IN SAN FRANCISCO, INCLUDING AFFIRMATION OF BOTH PALACE SQUARE LOCATION AND JULY FOUR TIMING. THIS LEADS POST TO WONDER A) WHETHER AGREEMENT TO WHICH BLINOV REFERRED WAS IN FACT

MERELY PRELIMINARY AND B) WHICH OF FOLLOWING LOCAL INSTITUTIONS FAILED TO GET ITS ACT SUFFICIENTLY TOGETHER: LENFILM, LENINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA AND/OR SOME OR ALL OF THE LATTER'S PARENT BODIES - LENOBKOM, LENGORKOM, LENOBLISPOLKOM AND LENGORISPOLKOM. THAT SOME OF THESE ARE NOT NOW INTIMATELY INVOLVED IN DECISION-MAKING HARDLY LIKELY, IN VIEW OF UNINHIBITED REACTION OF ONE SOVIET WHO CONFIDED TO CONOFF THAT, IF THE EVENT COMES OFF, QUOTE THERE WON'T HAVE BEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT ON PALACE SQUARE SINCE OCTOBER 25, 1917 UNQUOTE. IT STRIKES US THAT BELATED RECOGNITION OF THAT FACT, PERHAPS AT OBKOM LEVEL, MAY INDEED BE THE CAUSE OF THE PRESENT IMPASSE. END COMMENT.

3. REQUEST ACTION ADDRESSEES ATTEMPT FIND OUT OTHER SIDE THIS EVOLVING STORY FROM DEGRUNWALD AND CLAINOS AND INFORM CONGEN. PLEASE ALERT US BY IMMEDIATE OF ANY IMPENDING VISITS BY SOME OR ALL OF THE WOULD-BE PARTICIPANTS. BUCHANAN

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